

RADC-TR-72-208
Technical Report
July 1972



IONOSPHERIC HEATING ANALYSIS
William Marsh Rice University

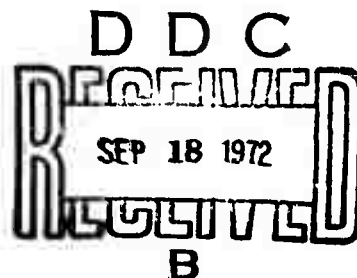
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IONOSPHERIC HEATING ANALYSIS

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Contractor: William Marsh Rice University
Contract Number: F30602-72-C-0278
Effective Date of Contract: 1 December 1971
Contract Expiration Date: 30 November 1972
Amount of Contract: \$79,613.00
Program Code Number: 1E20

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This research was supported by the
Defense Advanced Research Projects
Agency of the Department of Defense
and was monitored by Frederick C.
Wilson, RADC (OCSE), GAFB, NY 13440
under contract F30602-72-C-0278.

FOREWORD

Portions of the work described in this report were performed in collaboration with the staff of the Arecibo Observatory operated by Cornell University at Arecibo, Puerto Rico, and their support is gratefully acknowledged. The report was prepared by the principal investigator, but also includes the contribution of the project scientists H. C. Carlson and Robert L. Showen, and graduate students Ivan J. Kantor and Luiz Dias.

This technical report has been reviewed and is approved.


For Vincent J. Coyne
RADC Project Engineer


Fred C. Wilson
RADC Contract Engineer

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)

William Marsh Rice University
Houston, Texas 77001

2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

2b. GROUP

N/A

3. REPORT TITLE

Ionospheric Heating Analysis

4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)

Interim Technical Report, 1 December 1971 - 31 May 1972

5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)

William E. Gordon
Herbert C. Carlson

6. REPORT DATE

July 1972

7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES

25

7b. NO. OF REFS

4

8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.

F30602-72-C-0278

8b. PROJECT NO.

ARPA Order No. 1423

c.

d. Program Code Number 1E20

9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)

RADC-TR-72-208

10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

Monitored by: Frederick Wilson
RADC/OCSE
Griffiss AFB, NY 13440

12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY

Advanced Research Project Agency
1400 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209

13. ABSTRACT

The high frequency radio heating of the ionosphere running from May 1-20, 1972 has produced some surprising observational evidence of enhancements associated with the extraordinary mode of the heating radiowave (previously all other enhancements have been excited by the ordinary mode), enhanced gyro lines, and of ionospheric "holes" burned by the heating transmitter. While each of these surprises is still tentative, being based on superficial examination of the data as it was collected, they add new interests to people concerned with the plasma physics of the experiments.

14.

KEY WORDS

LINK A

LINK B

LINK C

ROLE

WT

ROLE

WT

ROLE

WT

Ionosphere

Electron Density

Wave Propagation

Plasma Temperature

Ionospheric Heating

Plasma Instabilities

IONOSPHERIC HEATING ANALYSIS

SUMMARY

The high frequency radio heating of the ionosphere running from May 1-20 has produced some surprising observational evidence of enhancements associated with the extraordinary mode of the heating radiowave (previously all other enhancements have been excited by the ordinary mode), enhanced gyro lines, and of ionospheric "holes" burned by the heating transmitter. While each of these surprises is still tentative, being based on superficial examination of the data as it was collected, they add new interests to people concerned with the plasma physics of the experiments.

The possibility of extraordinary mode enhancements of plasma lines was recently suggested by Fejer based on Bernstein waves in the plasma. The data will be examined carefully in the light of this suggestion and the experiments altered to test the predicted bands where enhancements should occur (between the multiples of the electron gyrofrequency) and where they should be forbidden (at and near the multiples of the gyrofrequency).

In the search for spectral features there has been discovered evidence for weak but measurable lines induced by the HF radio waves (O-mode) at the electron gyrofrequency and at twice the gyrofrequency. These observations are being carefully reduced and the theory of gyroline enhancements is being examined. The HF waves producing the enhancement are five or more times the local gyrofrequency.

The ionospheric "holes" are seen as extra traces on the ionograms and can be checked against electron density profiles made with the heater on and off. The extra traces on the ionograms are seen to fatten and merge, giving the appearance of spread-F, a phenomenon rarely seen above Arecibo but a regular feature of the Boulder heating experiment.

The anomalous heating that produces large enhancements in the intensity of the plasma line continues to attract major attention. The details of this work are reported separately in a report (Kantor's doctoral thesis).

TEMPERATURE EFFECTS OF THE ARECIBO HEATING EXPERIMENT

The heating is produced by deposition of energy from a 100 KW HF transmitter tunable from 5 to 10 MHz. The heating is measured by an incoherent backscatter radar with a frequency of 430 MHz.

The results presented here are from ordinary mode HF transmission. The O-mode wave bends to the north a few degrees, and the diagnostic radar was roughly pointed at the center of the heated volume (the heating beamwidth is about 10°).

Rise and fall times of the electron temperature are fast compared to the integration time (5 min) of the measurements. (Thermal relaxation times $\tau = (G\nu)^{-1}$ of tens of seconds are expected.)

At night, the electron temperature typically raises by $\Delta T_e = 200\text{--}300^\circ\text{K}$ (occasionally up to 400°K). The ion temperature possibly shows an increase up to $1/3 \Delta T_e$. In daytime, the ΔT_e (when observable) is much smaller. All of the temperature increases can readily be explained by the standard deviative absorption theory.

The results of an ON/OFF experiment for both penetrating and reflecting conditions are shown in Figure 1. When the HF wave is closely matched but penetrating, as shown in the left-hand cube, heating of $\approx 100^\circ\text{K}$ was observed throughout the F-layer. When the wave was reflecting, heating of 200°K was produced but only below the reflection altitude.

An experiment where the HF transmitter was cycled from OFF/HALF/FULL power gave the results shown in the next two figures. T_e and T_i are presented vs altitude in Figure 2 averaged separately for the three power settings. Notice that ΔT_e (50 KW) is slightly more than half ΔT_e

(100 KW). The ΔT_i may or may not be significant. In Figure 3 are presented T_e and T_i integrated in altitude and presented along with the HF power. The T_e tracks remarkably well with the HF power, while the T_i behavior is ambiguous.

In Figure 4 are plotted contours of T_e for an experiment where the HF wave was reflected. After 23:32 the ionosphere resumes its ambient temperature of 850-950°K. ΔT_e up to 400°K just below the reflection altitude are shown.

The results of a zenith angle scanning in two directions are shown in Figure 5. An increase of 140°K in T_e is measured in the northerly direction at a distance consistent with ray tracing. The increase in a westerly direction is quite small.

OBSERVATION OF ELECTRON CYCLOTRON LINES ENHANCED BY HF RADIO WAVES

The experiments performed at Arecibo using a 100 KW transmitter tunable between 5 and 12 MHz as a heater to excite artificially the ionosphere (Carlson et al., 1972) produced many new results, e.g., HF enhanced ion plasma fluctuations and HF enhanced plasma lines. In searching different portions of the spectrum of the 430 MHz back-scatter echo, it was found that under certain conditions a new line, typically 2 kHz wide, and with a signal intensity up to 3.5 times the noise, appeared at times near the electron cyclotron frequency and at other times near twice the cyclotron frequency. The lines appeared infrequently, suggesting that stringent ionospheric and experimental conditions must be satisfied.

The experiment was performed at the Arecibo Observatory (NAIC), Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The heating transmitter used as an antenna a log-periodic feed mounted near the focus of the 1000-foot dish to produce the ordinary magnetoionic mode of polarization launched vertically and delivered sufficient incident power density into the ionospheric F-region to modify the local plasma. The diagnostics include photometers, ionosondes and the 430 MHz radar. This deals only with the radar results.

A computer controlled data taking program measured the returned power profile, which is recorded on magnetic tape and subsequently the spectrum is computed by means of a fast Fourier transform. A receiver filter of 125 kHz bandwidth is examined with a frequency resolution of 1.12 kHz. The received frequency is controlled by the computer and can be changed every radar interpulse period. Thus, one is able to look at different portions of the spectrum essentially simultaneously.

Figure 6 shows a typical returned spectrum when the heater is OFF and Figure 7 the same portion of the spectrum when the heater is ON. Note the big enhancement at the plasma line and the appearance of a new line at one or two times the electron cyclotron frequency. It is likely that the spectrum is quasi-symmetrical; the plasma lines have been observed to be nearly symmetrical with respect to the center of the spectrum; however, the weak new lines have not yet been detected in the lower part of the spectrum. At the next opportunity (October 1972) the search will be extended.

A close look in the vicinity of the line near the electron cyclotron frequency is shown in Figure 8, with the statistical fluctuation denoted by bars from an actual observation.

There is some evidence of a shift of the line frequency with time, suggesting changes in the height of the excited layer and other ionospheric parameters. Further analysis is underway.

The experiments were done in three steps in order to rule out any possible interference: (1) with the heater ON and the receivers connected to the antenna, to record the data; (2) with the heater ON and the receivers connected to a dummy load, to be sure that the signal was coming from the ionosphere; and (3) with the heater OFF and the receivers connected to the antenna, to be sure that the effect seen was produced by the artificial heating of the ionosphere. The lines were seen only in step (1), which is a decisive proof of their existence.

Observations were made at the following heater frequencies: 5.1, 5.425, 6.79, 8.195, 10.85 MHz, but the best results (higher signal-to-noise) were obtained for $f_{HF} = 5.425$ MHz and $f_{HF} = 10.85$ MHz. It is interesting

to note that the last frequency is the double of the previous and this is almost 5 times the local electron cyclotron frequency at the height of reflection over Arecibo. A standard computer program computes the electron cyclotron frequency over Arecibo from POGO satellite coefficients (Cain, 1970).

The lines came from the height of reflection of the HF signal. The change in frequency with time could indicate a reflection from a different height and/or that the frequency of the line is proportional to some time varying parameter; however, at this stage no conclusion can be drawn.

HF ENHANCEMENTS OF INCOHERENT BACKSCATTER PLASMA LINES

Observations of enhancements of incoherent backscatter plasma lines excited by strong HF radio waves are reported. Among the features described are: spectral shape and correlation between features, power dependence, decay times, longer term fading rates, comparison between up and downshifted plasma lines.

Some experimental data of instabilities generated at plasma frequencies when a strong HF radio wave from 5-10 MHz is incident in the F-region in the ionosphere is shown. The data was obtained at the Arecibo Observatory facilities.

Figure 9 shows the schematic backscatter spectrum. At the radar frequency we have the usual ion line. The enhancement from HF radio wave could not be observed yet. At each side of it it is usual to observe two plasma line enhancements, up and downshifted at approximately the heater frequency. They usually have similar shape and their amplitude follows grossly with time. There is one enhancement at the HF frequency corresponding to the growing mode. Displaced by approximately an ion acoustic frequency, there is an enhancement corresponding to the parametric or decay instability, referred to here as the plasma line.

Figure 10 shows an example of a plasma line spectra. The peak intensity is $64,000^\circ\text{K}$, with a signal-to-noise ratio of 132, and is displaced by approximately 5 kHz as predicted by the parametric theory.

Figure 11 shows the peak of the plasma line measured at different HF power, in the range from 0 to 125 KW. The data was taken every 20 seconds. It shows a power dependence and there seems to be an hysteresis effect, but that cannot be separated from the natural time fluctuation.

Figure 12 shows the peak intensity of the plasma line with constant HF power. A Fourier analysis shows a strong harmonic component of a 35 second period. It can be seen that on occasions the intensity fluctuates more than an order of magnitude.

Figure 13 relates the peak signal at the plasma line (decay mode) and the peak signal at the HF (growing mode), for different HF powers. It shows a very strong correlation.

Measurements done of the decay time of the plasma line show time constants of the order of 700 μ s, which corresponds closely to electron ion collision frequency and Landau damping from photoelectrons.

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Wickwar, Vincent B., Photoelectrons from the Magnetic Conjugate Point Studied by Means of the 6300 Predawn Enhancement and the Plasma Line Enhancement, Ph.D. Dissertation, Rice University, April 1971.*

* The research performed in connection with the writing of the four above dissertations was initiated under RADC Contract No. F-30602-70-C-0187.

N 28 - 50 R 3
22 JULY 1971

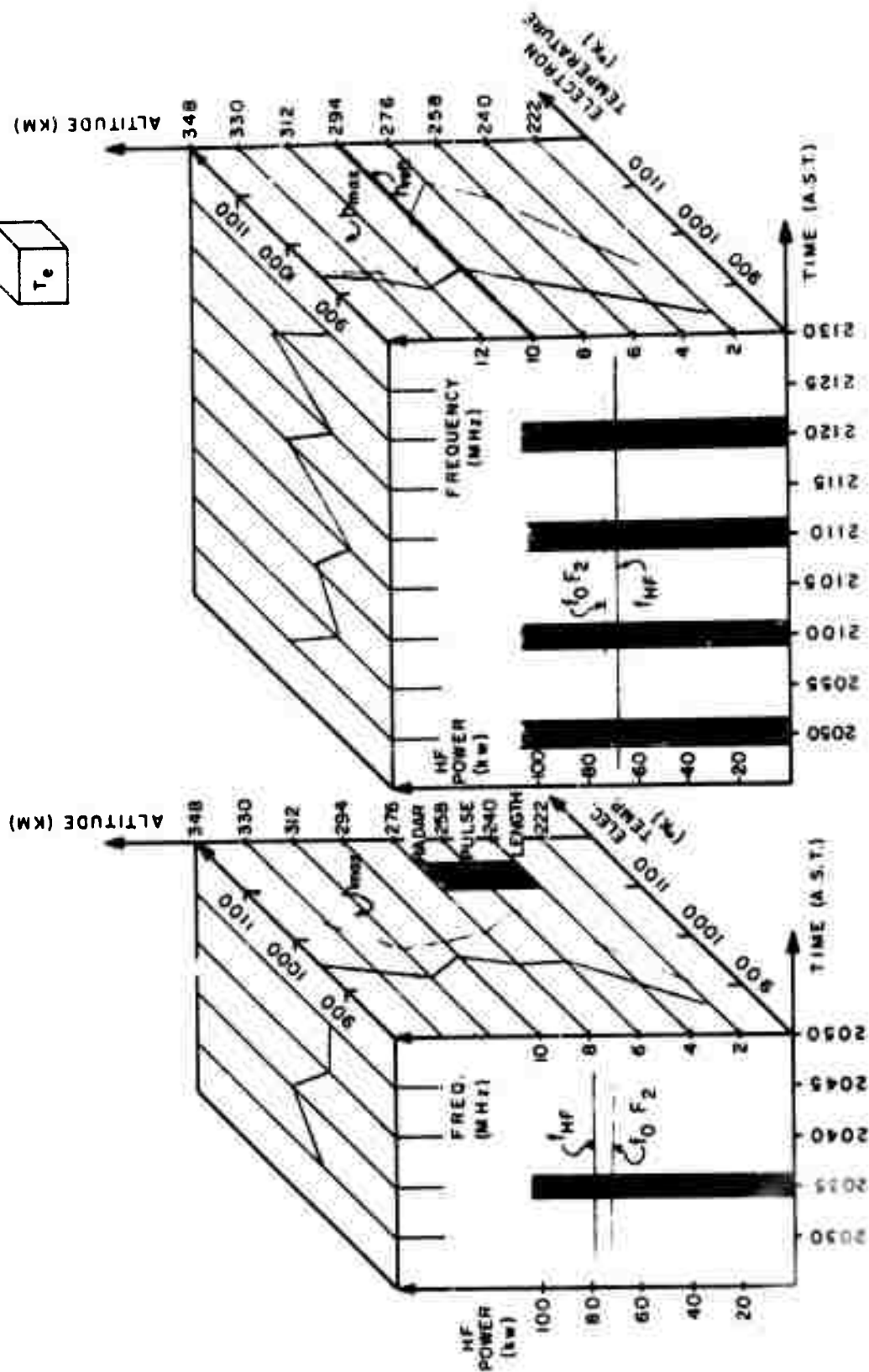


FIGURE 1

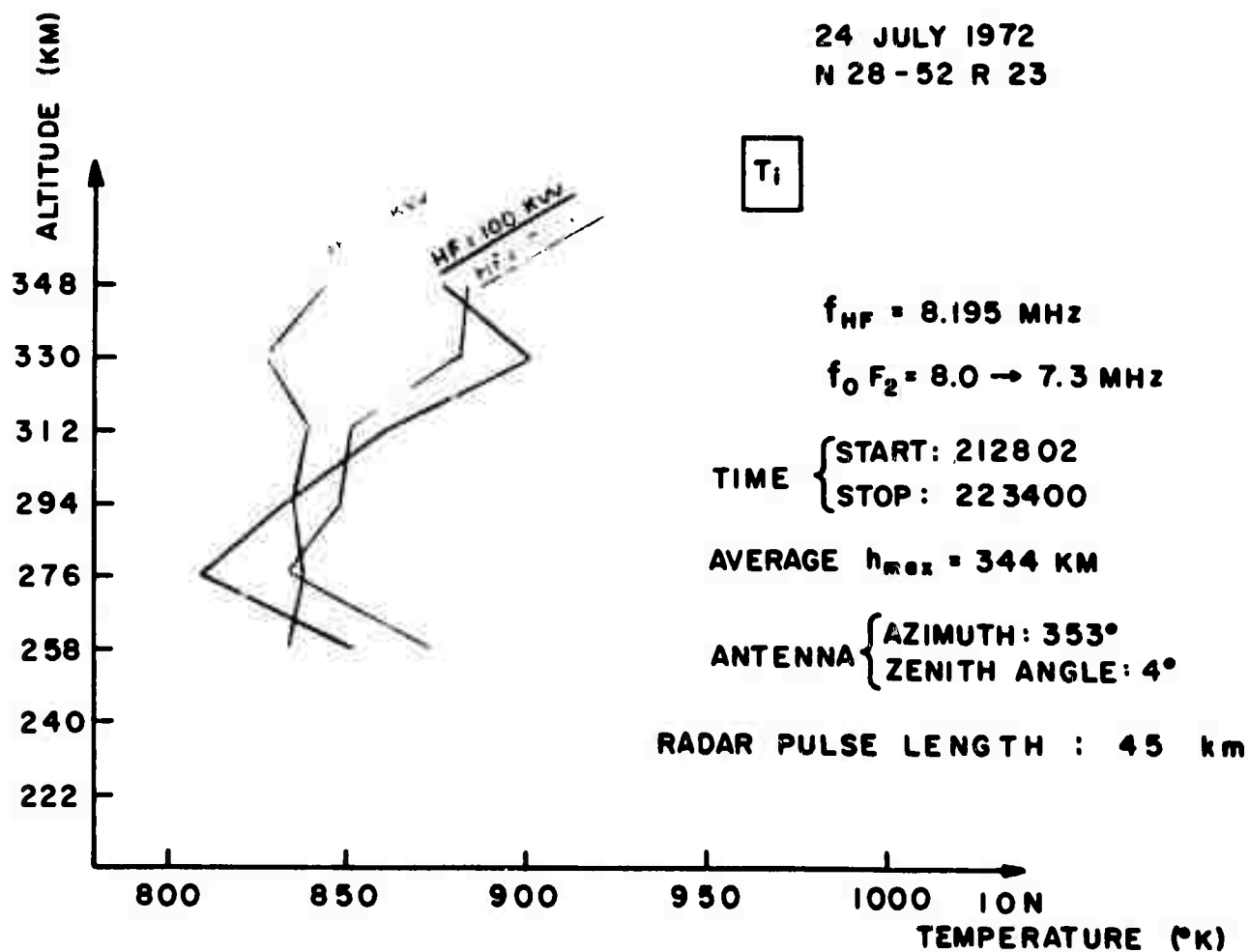
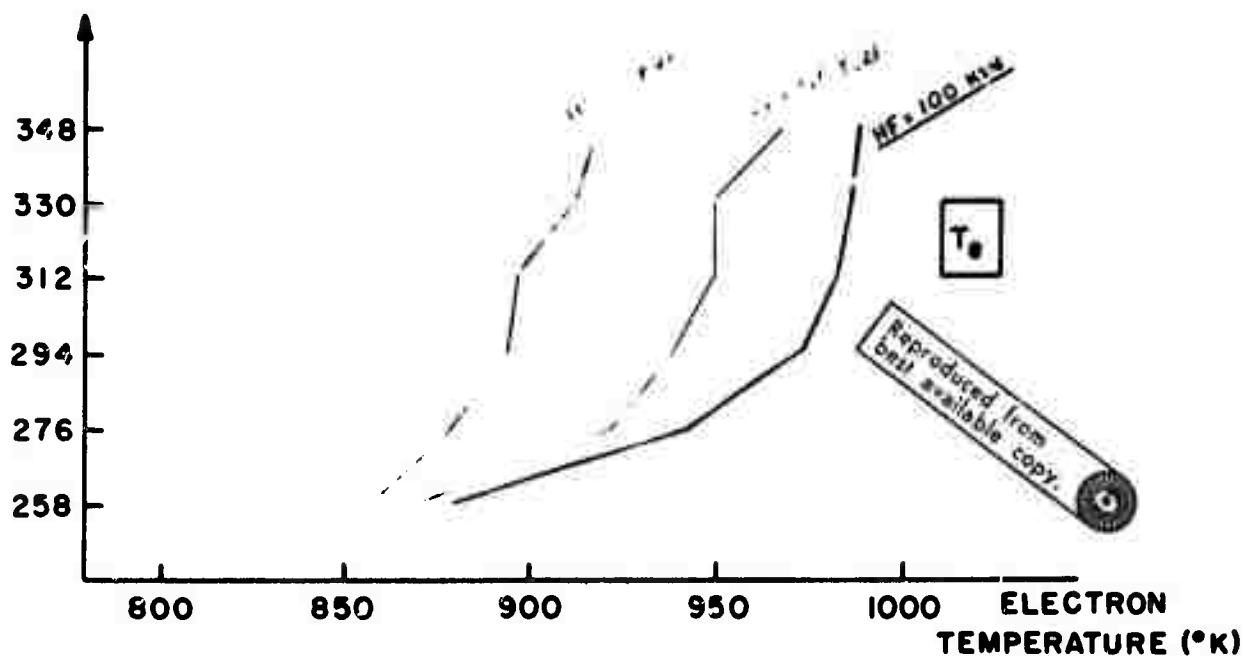


FIGURE 2

N 28-52 R 23
24 JULY 1971
21: 28:02 - 22: 34:00

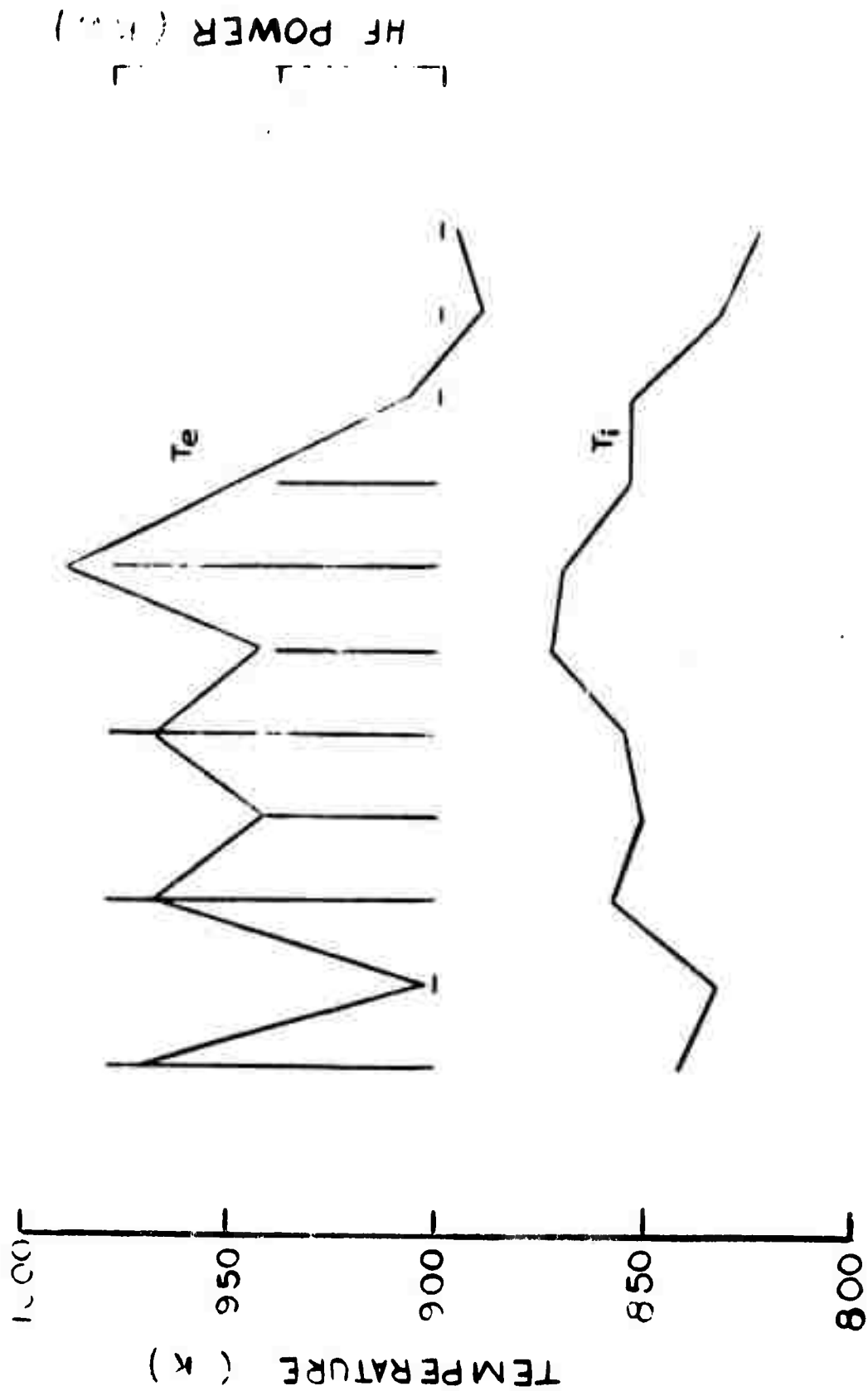


FIGURE 3

ELECTRON HEATING FROM HF POWER DEPOSITION

ARECIBO OBSERVATORY
 19 JULY, 1971 22:00 - 24:00
 HEATER: FREQ, 5.10 MHz
 POWER, 100 kw
 TIME, 21:30 - 23:32
 $f_o f_2$ 5.9 - 6.3 MHz

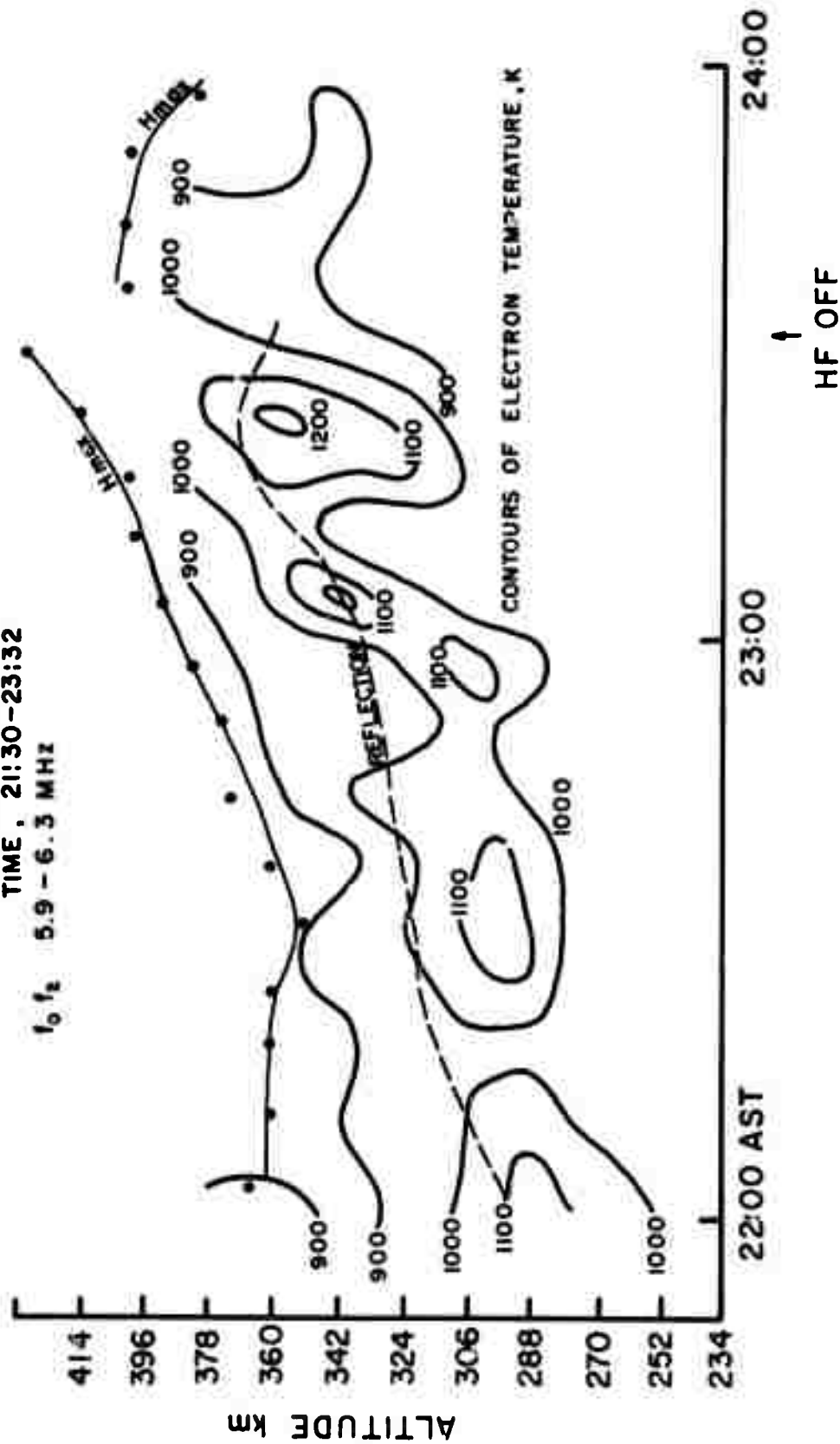


FIGURE 4

ΔT_e Map

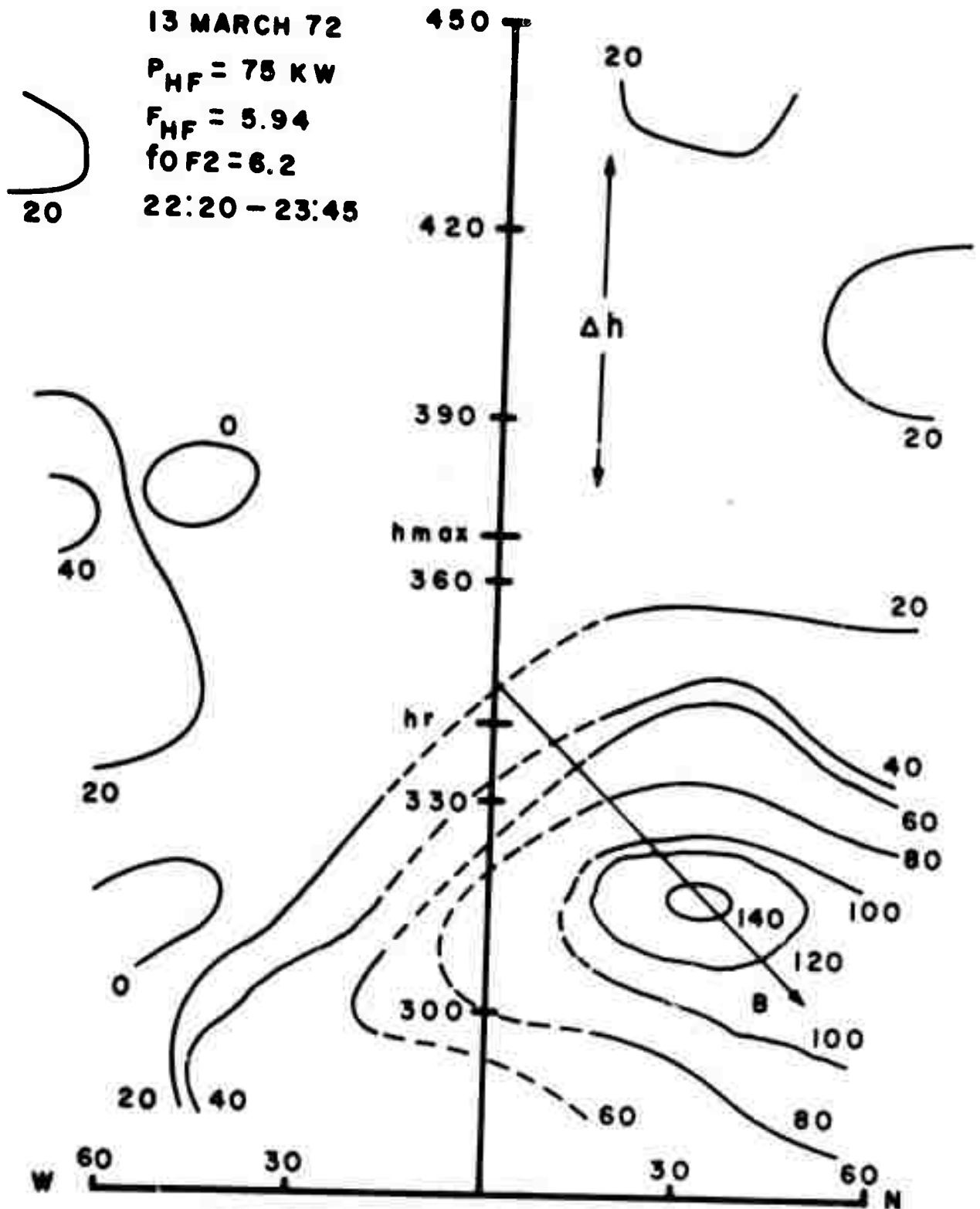


FIGURE 5

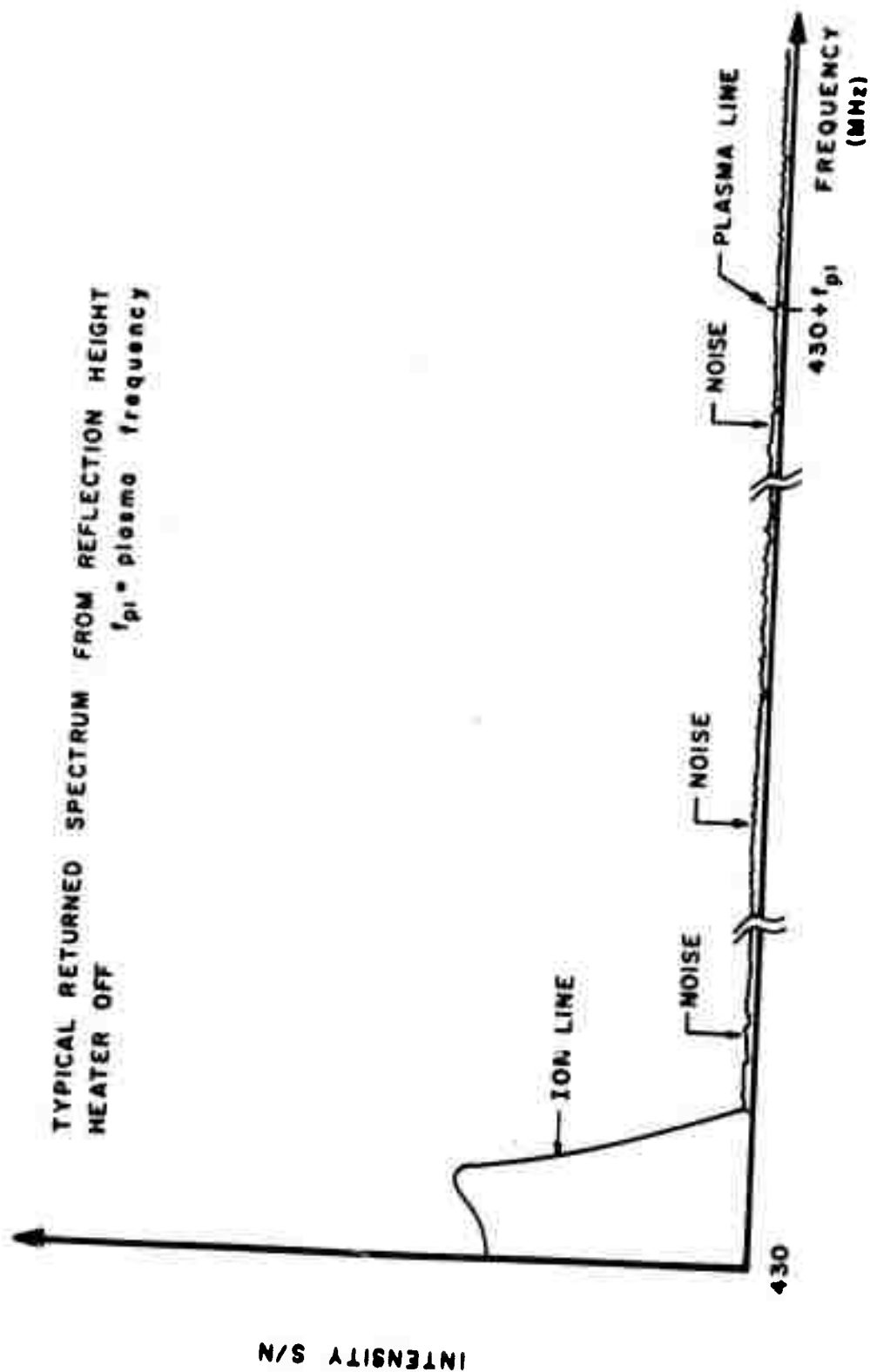
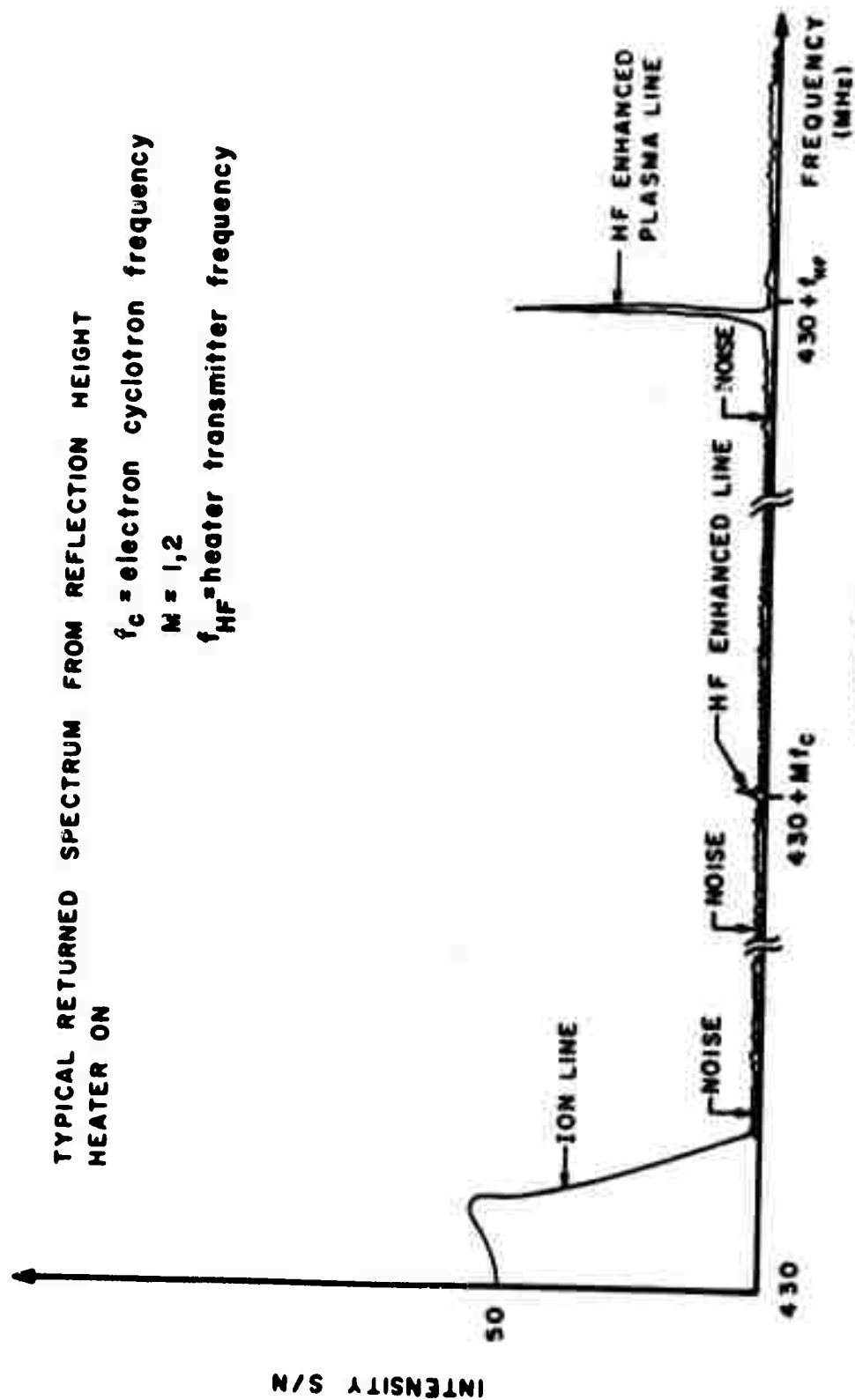


FIGURE 6



TYPICAL RETURNED SPECTRUM FROM REFLECTION HEIGHT
HEATER ON

f_c = electron cyclotron frequency
 $M = 1, 2$
 f_{HF} = heater transmitter frequency

FIGURE 7

Frequency Spectrum Near Electron Cyclotron Frequency

103550 TO 103608 ON 15 MARCH 72

FREQ L.O. = 1190 KHZ

FILTER BW = 125 KHZ

HF FREQ = 5.425 MHZ

HF POWER = 75 KW

GATE DELAY = 1615 μ SEC (240 km)

STATISTICAL FLUCTUATION = 8.3 %
 ** SAMPLES AVERAGED = 143

N20 - 65 R31 TAPE 6150

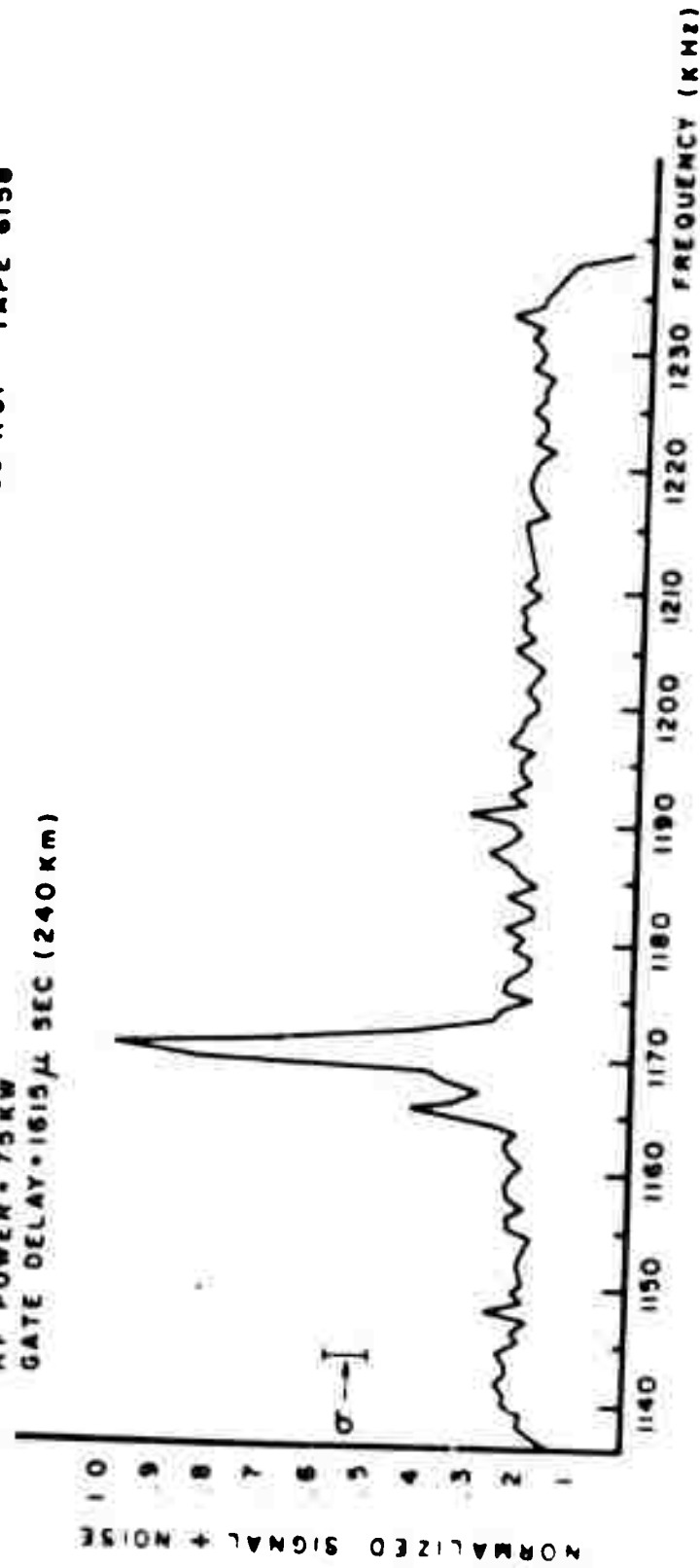


FIGURE 8

SCHEMATIC BACKSCATTER SPECTRUM DURING IONOSPHERIC HEATING

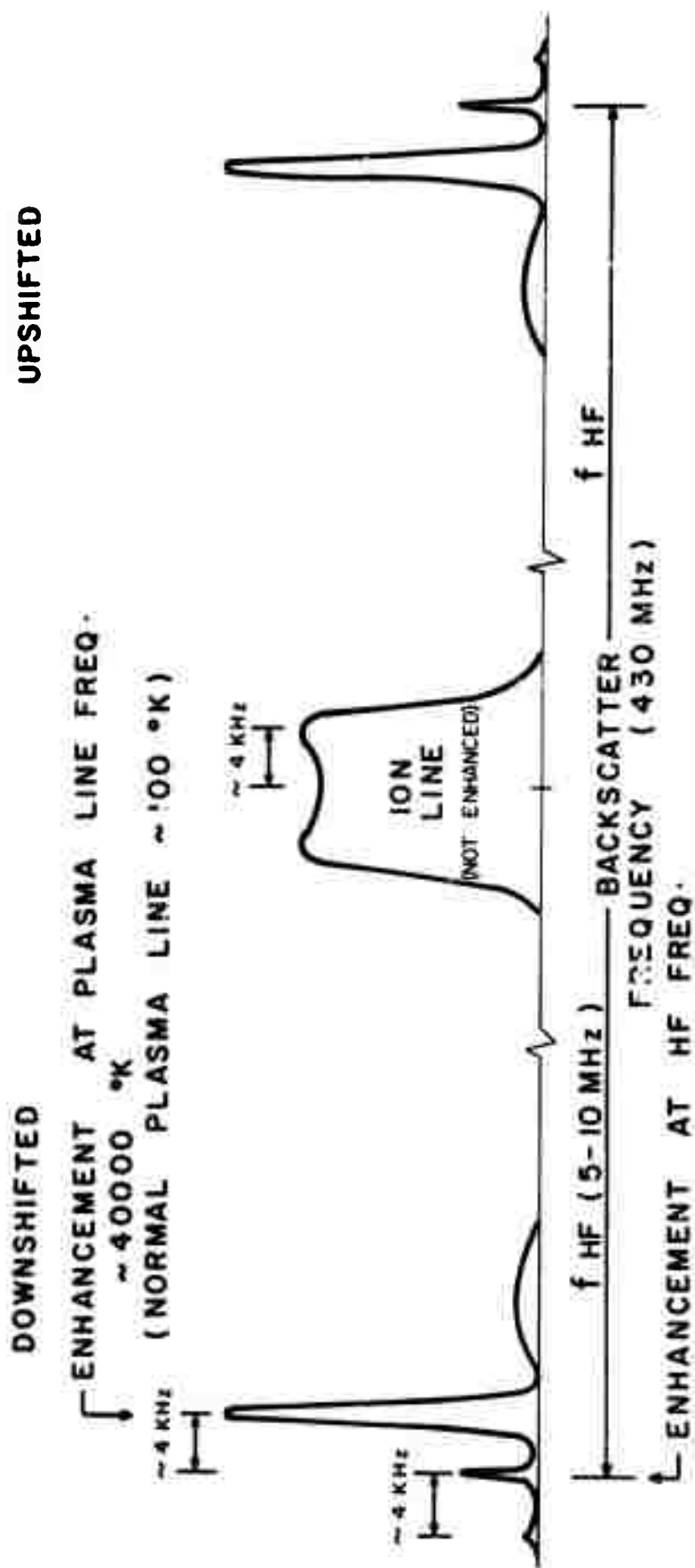
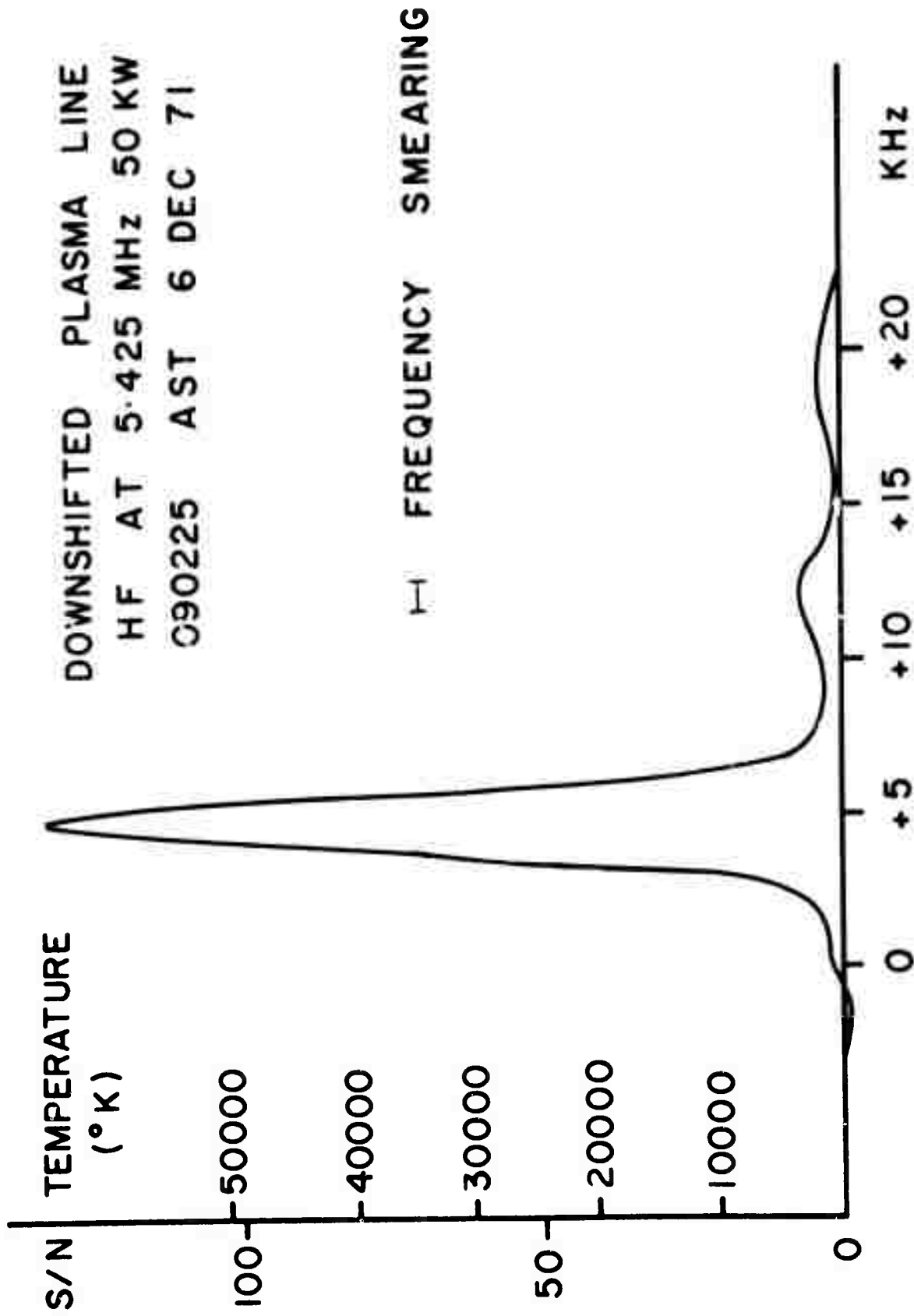


FIGURE 9



DISPLACEMENT FROM 430 MHz - f_{HF}

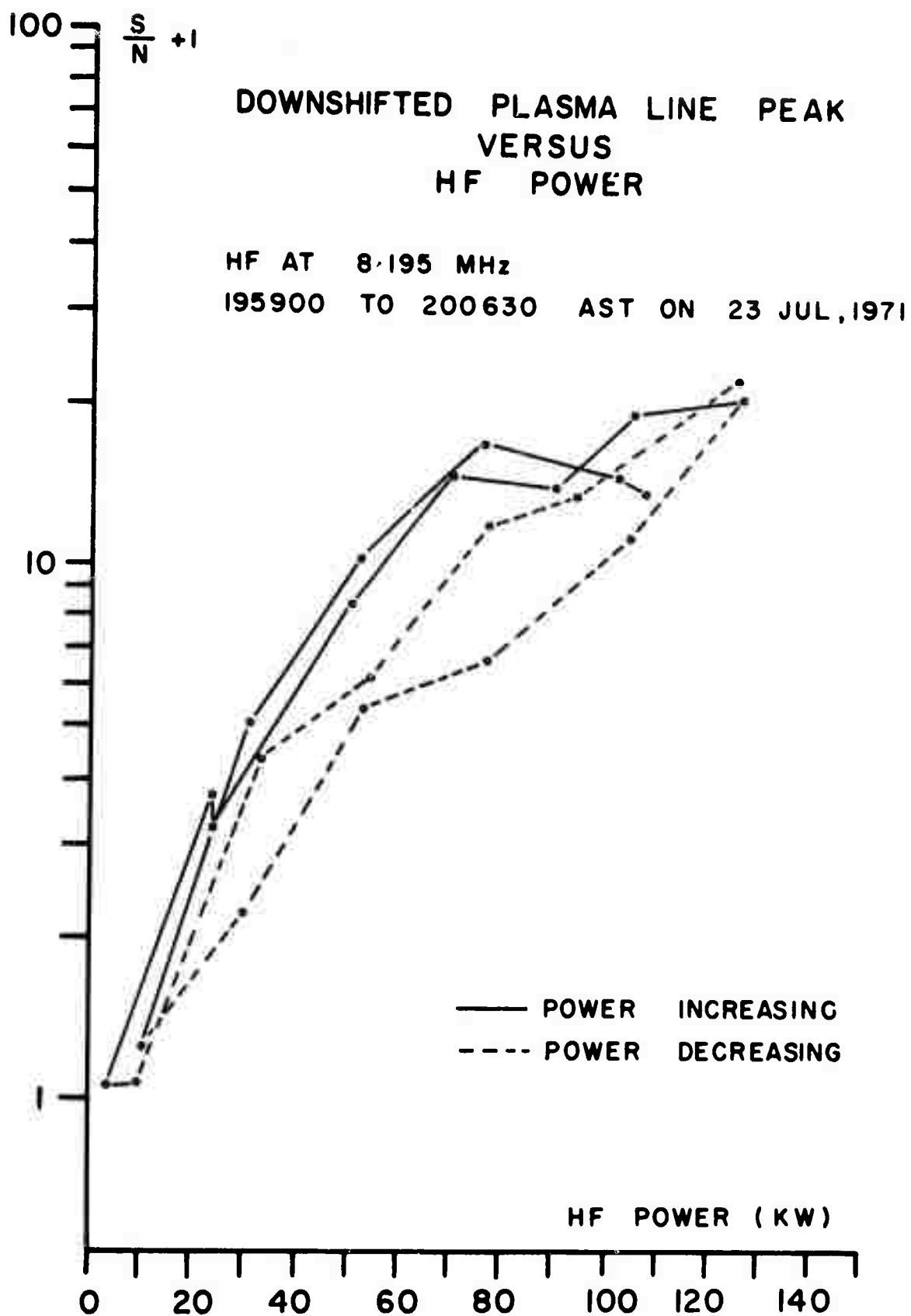


FIGURE 11

UPSHIFTED PLASMA
LINE PEAK

8 MARCH 1972

HF AT 7.630 MHz 85 KW

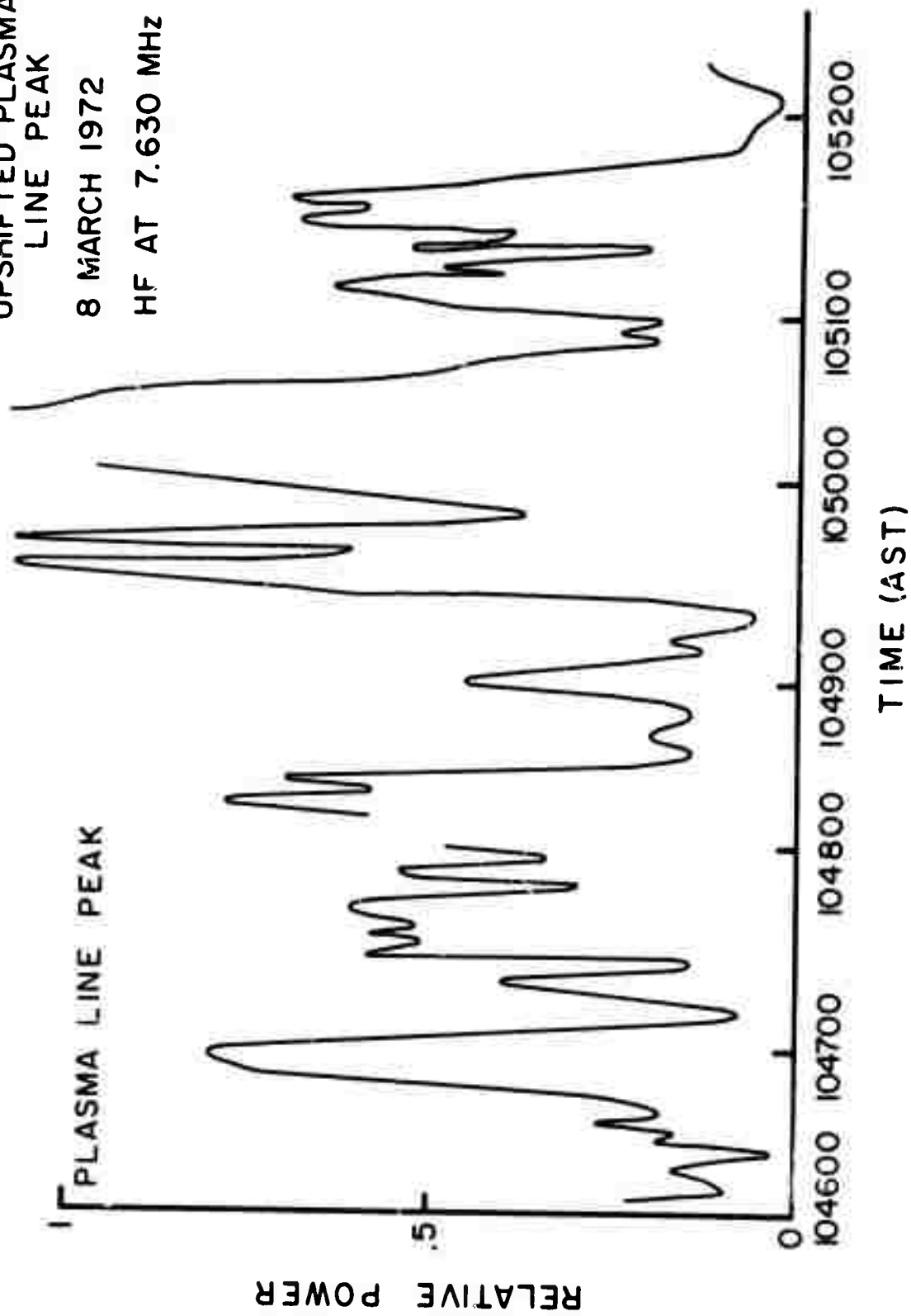


FIGURE 12

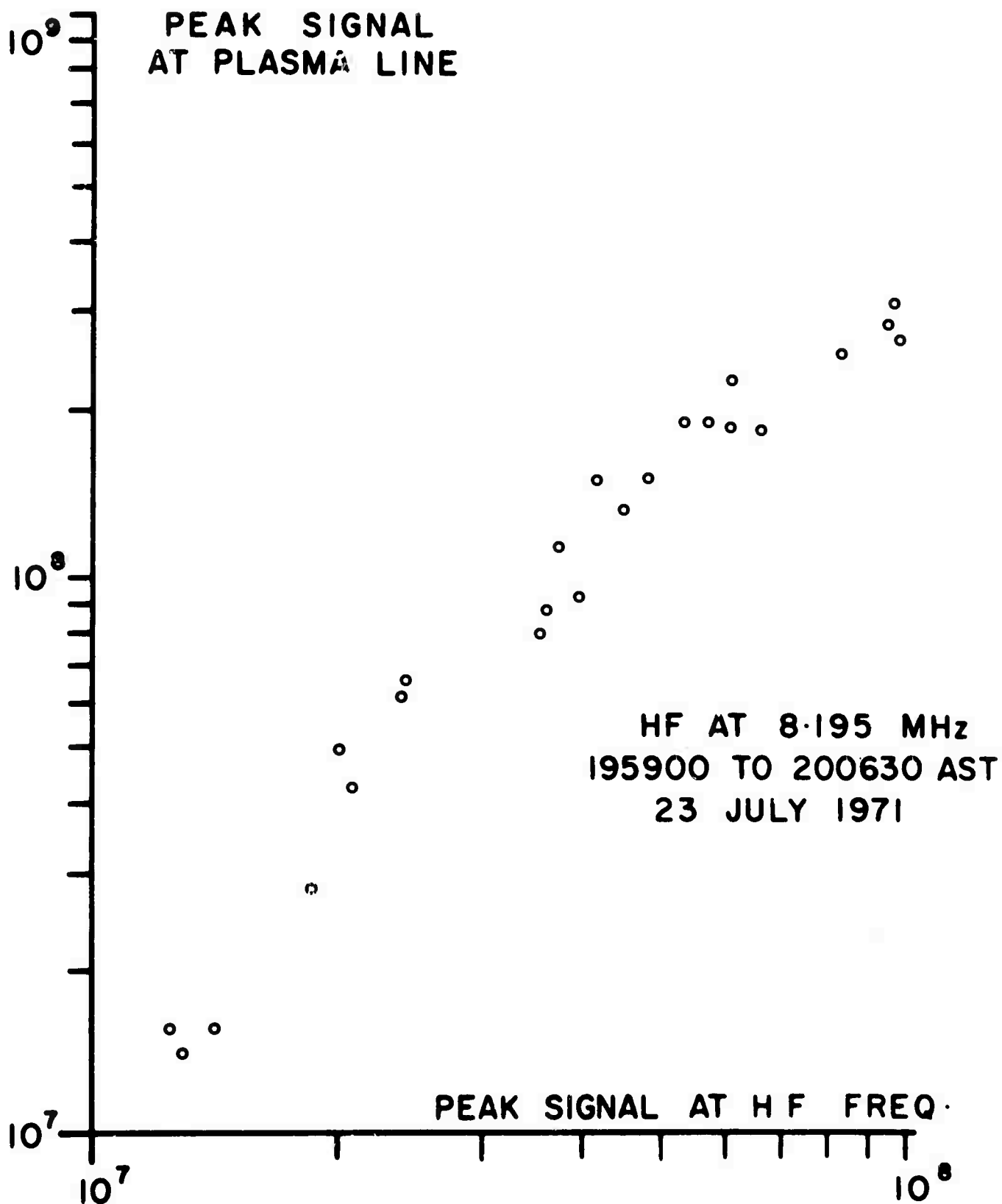


FIGURE 13